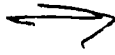


0498

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[Redacted]

6.2(d)



POLAND: Communist Party Trying To Save Itself

The Central Committee of Poland's Communist party decided Saturday to dissolve the party at its Congress on 27 January and to form a broad-based "socialist" party with a new name, a new leadership, and a commitment to parliamentary democracy.

3.3(b)(1)

[Redacted] the leadership's first priority is to head off a split into orthodox and reformist parties.

3.3(b)(1)

6.2(d)

[Redacted]

Comment: The shaken party's promise of far-reaching changes in its political program is unlikely to make it competitive or stave off its further decline. The changes approved by the Central Committee are a vain attempt at appeasing the reformists in the leadership without jeopardizing the party's traditional base. But the quest for internal cohesion probably will not restore the Communists' electoral competitiveness. The party is so discredited that its successor cannot escape being tainted, and a further decline appears inevitable. Large numbers of Communists already have abandoned their party ties to protect their jobs with the Solidarity-led government, and more defections are likely. If the party suffers massive defeats in the local elections this summer, as is likely, pressure for a formal split may prove irresistible. [Redacted]

6.2(d)

NR Record

~~Top Secret~~

TCS 2710/90
12 January 1990